Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 29 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Thursday 28 Dec 2023 at 10:51

Confidence: High for unsettled and often windy conditions through this period. Lower for rain or snow details and freezing levels.

Headline for Friday 29 Dec 2023: Spells of rain or snow. Cold and windy.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 29 Dec 2023

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Gales
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow	Light snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Light snow
Precipitation probability							
60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%

Forecast for Friday 29 Dec 2023

Weather: Mostly cloudy with showery outbreaks of rain, falling as snow above 700m at first but lowering to 400m during the afternoon. Some of the showers could be heavy, especially in the afternoon and evening, with a small chance of lightning.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30%. Best chance in east.

Low cloud and visibility: Frequent cloud above 600m, with some patches down to 400m. Cloud rising to higher slopes for longer spells over eastern fells. Away from cloud, mainly good visibility but occasionally poor in rain and down to a few hundred metres in snow.

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Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday 29 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	47/60 SW	47/61 SW	43/57 W	38/50 W	35/46 W	28/38 W	25/33 W	20/27 W	15/20 W
600	38/54 SW	37/53 SW	36/50 W	32/45 W	30/43 W	22/33 W	19/28 W	16/24 W	11/17 W
300	17/43 SW	17/44 SW	16/42 W	16/39 W	15/35 W	11/27 W	9/24 W	7/19 W	5/14 W
Valley	19/42 SW	21/45 W	19/42 W	17/36 W	16/32 W	13/26 W	10/22 W	8/18 W	7/15 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	0/-9	-0/-10	-1/-10	-1/-10	-1/-10	-2/-10	-2/-10	-2/-9	-3/-8
600	2/-5	2/-6	2/-6	1/-6	1/-6	0/-6	-0/-7	-0/-6	-1/-5
300	5/0	4/-0	4/-1	4/-1	4/-1	2/-2	2/-2	2/-2	2/-1
Valley	8/4	7/3	7/3	6/2	6/2	5/2	5/1	4/2	4/2
Freezing Level*	1000m	900m	800m	800m	700m	700m	600m	600m	600m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

A bitterly cold day on the tops with frequent sleet or snow showers. Snow and ice underfoot on high slopes.

Forecast for Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Weather: Wintry showers dying out overnight. A dry start but sleet or snow will soon spread in from the southwest in the morning, turning to rain on all but the highest tops. This turning heavy for a while then clearing east in the afternoon followed by blustery showers, falling as snow above 600m.

Maximum wind: South or southeast 10-15mph increasing 30 to 40mph gust 55mph, easing slightly in afternoon.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 90% early morning but soon becoming 20% or less.

Low cloud and visibility: Good visibility early morning but quickly worsening as snow arrives, becoming poor with extensive cloud above 500m. Cloud lifting and breaking in the afternoon but some patches down to 500m in showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 1C rising to 6C.
At 800m: Minus 2C rising to Plus 1C in afternoon, then 0C later.
Freezing level: 500m rising above summits for a time in afternoon, then 800m later.

Sunday	Showers or longer spells of rain or snow, the snow falling above about 500 or 600m. Strong southerly winds easing. Freezing level 900m falling to 700m.
Monday	Bright spells and showers, wintry above 500m. Feeling cold with strong westerly winds. Freezing level 700m.
Tuesday	Wintry showers dying out then mainly dry, bright and cold. Winds easing. Freezing level 700m falling to 500m.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 28 December. Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:4 or 5. Full report: A light covering of snow has settled overnight above 800m deposited on gale force, predominantly SW, winds. Owing to the strength of the wind, however, much of the Lakeland fells remain clear of snow up to, and including, summit level with the majority of snow lying in sheltered spots and hollows and especially on steep north and east facing slopes above 850m where drifts of up to 10cm can be found (although even this depth is exceptional). At midday, the snow was soft and thawing so walkers out on Friday may find little left. Conversely, temperatures are forecast to drop after dark with the showers falling as snow at altitude so walkers out on the highest peaks on Friday may find more snow combined with harder snow and ice, so should also be prepared for this eventuality. Today, however, the main hazard was, once again, the strong and gusty nature of the wind especially when combined with drizzle, rain and, especially unpleasant, horizontal hail. This, together with saturated ground and the wet, slippery rocks underfoot, (sometimes covered with soft snow), made for challenging conditions. Many walkers were, sensibly and quite understandably, turning back early leaving the summit for another, far more pleasant day! Despite the mild valley temperatures, the summit temperature was not far off zero - plus 3 degrees C - with the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) below at minus 8 degrees C just after midday. Thus, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely roam the fells. As mentioned, there is the strong possibility of hard snow and ice forming at altitude overnight, so walkers out on the highest peaks on Friday should carry microspikes and those attempting steep and exposed routes, such as the Helvellyn edges, should consider crampons and ice axes. Do keep up to date with the latest forecast before setting out. Goggles are strongly recommended to lessen the sting of windblown hail. Temperature: Plus 2.6 C, Maximum wind speed 57.0 mph, Wind chill: minus 7.6C, Average wind speed: 44.0 mph.

Issued at: 1051 on Thu 28 Dec 2023

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